Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 06251 292007Z

61
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 IO-14 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01

AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /126 W
---------- 099936
O 291605Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5219

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 6251

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, GR
SUBJ: ALLEGED GOG ARMS SCANDAL

REF: (A) STATE 189493; (B) CHJUSMAGG 291353Z AUG 74 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: EVANS/NOVAK COLUMN BOTH INACCURATE AND TENDENTIOUS. ALLEGATIONS OF PECULATION ARE TO OUR KNOWLEDGE GROUNDLESS. LONG-STANDING EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION SHORTFALLS WITHIN HELLENIC ARMED FORCES ARE RESULT OF INADEQUATE RESOURCES RATHER THAN DISHONESTY OR INCOMPETENCE. ALTHOUGH MISCONCEIVED, HELLENIC ARMED FORCES MOBILIZATION WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN MILITARY TERMS, IF QUITE WASTEFUL ECONOMICALLY. END SUMMARY

1. EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN IS HIGHLY SUSPECT ASSEMBLAGE OF PURE CANARD AND HIGHLY-DISTORTED SHADOWS OF A FEW FACTS. THE ATTRIBUTION BY EVANS AND NOVAK TO DEMETRACOPOULOS SHOULD TELL MUCH ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF THIS UNFORTUNATE EXAMPLE OF TENDENTIOUS REPORTING. WE ATTEMPT TO SET OUT BELOW A FEW FACTS TO REFUTE FALSE ALLEGATIONS.

2. GREECE'S MOBILIZATION WAS NOT CARRIED OUT AS EFFICIENTLY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 06251 292007Z

AS IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN, IN THAT A WELL WORKED OUT PLAN FOR

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

PHASED AND SELECTIVE CALL-UPS OF RESERVISTS TO FILL SPECIFIC VACANCIES WAS ABANDONED IN FAVOR OF A GENERAL MOBILIZATION. THIS RESULTED IN LARGE NUMBERS OF MEN FOR WHOSE HOUSING AND FEEDING INADEQUATE PROVISION WAS MADE, SPENDING MANY DAYS IN HASTILY ORGANIZED REPLACEMENT DEPOTS. THIS EVIDENT, OF COURSE, AROUND LARGE POPULATION CENTERS, MOST NOTABLY ATHENS. THE ECONOMIC BURDEN IN TERMS OF LOST PRODUCTIVITY WAS HEAVY.

3. DESPITE DIFFICULTY OF SORTING OUT TOO MANY MEN IN TOO LITTLE TIME, COMBAT UNITS OF THE HELLENIC ARMY (WHICH WERE AT PEACETIME MANNING LEVELS) WERE BROUGHT UP TO STRENGTH AND READY TO CARRY OUT THEIR MISSIONS IN REMARKABLY SHORT ORDER. QUALIFIED OBSERVERS HAVE NOTED THAT THE FARTHER FORWARD ONE WENT TOWARD THE POTENTIAL COMBAT ZONE THE MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT THE MOBILIZATION APPEARED. IN FACT, THOSE PORTIONS OF PHASED AND SELECTIVE MOBILIZATION PLAN WHICH COULD BE APPLIED ENABLED HELLENIC ARMY TO CARRY OUT WHAT MUST BE COUNTED AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MOBILIZATION EXERCISE.

4. ALTHOUGH THE DISCOVERY OF SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF PECULATION CANNOT BE RULED OUT, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT ANY HAS OCCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH US-PROVIDED EQUIPMENT. THE SPECIFIC EXAMPLE CITED OF M-16 RIFLES AND ROCKS IN CRATES IS PATENTLY RIDICULOUS, SINCE HELLENIC FORCES HAVE NEVER ACQUIRED M-16'S OTHER THAN A HANDFUL FOR TESTING PURPOSES AND HIGHLY SPECIALIZED USES. BOOTS, OF COURSE, HAVE NOT BEEN PROVIDED UNDER US MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR AT LEAST TWO DECADES, IF EVER. THE CHARGE THAT HELLENIC FORCES SOLD US-SUPPLIED ARMS FOR CASH TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES IS ABSURB. NO SIGNIFICANT END ITEMS COULD HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF IN THIS FASHION WITHOUG BEING LEARNED OF BY LARGE NUMBERS OF HELLENIC OFFICERS, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF EXISTING EQUIPMENT SHORTFALLS WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN SERIOUS PROBLEM.

5. THE FACT THAT THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT SHORTFALLS OF VARIOUS ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT AND KINDS OF AMMUNITION DID NOT SUDDENLY COME TO LIGHT AT THE TIME OF MOBILIZATION. THE HELLENIC ARMED FORCES HAD PROVIDED COMPLETE INFORMATION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

TO NATO FOR MANY YEARS, AND WORKED WITHIN NATO FORCE GOALS TO MAKE UP MATERIEL DIFICIENCIES. OUR EFFORTS THROUGH VARIOUS SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO MAKE UP SHORTFALLS WERE VERY HELPFUL, AND HELLENIC ARMED FORCES HAVE SPENT QUITE SIGNIFICANT SUMS IN RECENT YEARS ON AMMUNITION AND NEW EQUIPMENT.. THE PROBLEM WAS NOT ONE OF INCOMPETENCE OR DISHONEST BUT OF LIMITED RESOURCES.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

6. THE ONLY ABUSE OF AMERICAN MILITARY AID HAS BEEN THE POLITICAL ABUSE OF USING TANKS AND APC'S TO STAGE COUPS AND SUPPRESS STUDENTS. SERIOUS AS THIS WAS, IT DID NOT LESSEN CAPABILITY OF HELLENIC ARMY TO UTILIZE SUCH EQUIPMENT IN DEFENDING GREECE, AND MOST OF UNITS INVOLVED RECENTLY HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED OUT OF ATHENS REGION TO AREAS WHERE GOG FELT POTENTIAL DANGER EXISTED.

7. WE REGARD THIS KIND OF JOURNALISM AS WHOLLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND MISCHIEVOUS. DESPITE MILITARY RULE OF PAST SEVEN YEARS, HELLENIC ARMED FORCES MANAGED TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF TRAINING AND EFFICIENCY. SINS OF MILITARY REGIMES UNDENIABLY WERE MANIFOLD, INCLUDING THE APPLICATION OF POLITICAL CRITERIA FOR PROMOTION AND APPOINTMENT OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS. HOWEVER, AT A TIME WHEN WE NEED TO MAINTAIN BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH HELLENIC MILITARY, CALUMNY SUCH AS EVANS/NOVAK COLUMN IS POTENTIALLY QUITE HARMFUL.

8. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DRAW ON REF B, WHICH SENT TO SECDEF, FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF SITUATION.
TASCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, CRIMES, ARMS, SALES, REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS06251
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740239-1190
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974089/aaaaahld.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 189493; (B) CHJUSMAGG 2913, 53Z AUG 74 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED GOG ARMS SCANDAL
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005